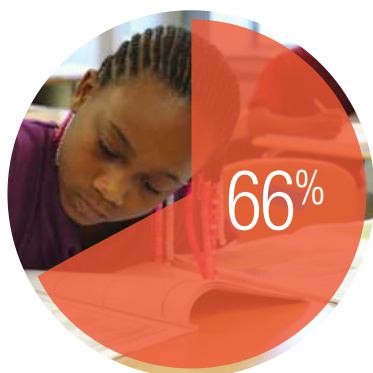


# THE SUMMER LEARNING SEND-OFF

## GREAT IDEAS FOR PRINCIPALS, SCHOOL LEADERS & TEACHERS

### Send Students into Summer READY FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR!

Summer learning loss is not news to teachers. In a 2013 survey of 500 teachers by the National Summer Learning Association:



Nearly 66 percent reported needing  
**TO DEVOTE 3-4 WEEKS TO  
REVIEWING OR RE-TEACHING  
THE SAME MATERIAL**

at the beginning of the school year  
that their students had learned the  
previous spring.



Another 24 percent reported spending  
**5 WEEKS OR MORE**  
backtracking before deciding it was  
safe to proceed to new terrain.

This means that during a 40-week  
academic calendar, teachers have to  
spend more than 10 percent of it  
pulling their students back up to where  
they had been before summer slide.



### TIPS FOR PRINCIPALS & SCHOOL LEADERS

Principals and school leaders play a critical role in helping to curb summer learning loss and close achievement and opportunity gaps. Here are some ideas to keep kids learning, safe, and healthy this summer:

**KEEP YOUR SCHOOL'S LIBRARY OPEN DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.** Even if it is just for a few hours a day once a week.

Hunger takes no vacation during the summer, keep your cafeteria open. **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM.** Visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/how-become-sponsor> to find out how your school can become a summer feeding site.

**CONSIDER OPENING YOUR GYM AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK** to give children a safe place in the neighborhood to run around and play games.

**EXPLORE GIVING SOME TEACHERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LOOP**— where teachers advance to the next grade level along with their students.



Explore ways to **TRACK SUMMER LEARNING LOSS** in your school.

**ENCOURAGE TEACHERS TO TALK WITH PARENTS** about summer learning loss and the importance of summer reading. Visit [www.summerlearning.org/KeepKidsLearning](http://www.summerlearning.org/KeepKidsLearning) for family resources.

**PARTNER WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS** to run summer programs at your school.

**ADVOCATE FOR SUMMER FUNDING.** Most state and federal education funding can be used during the summer – an “allowable” use.

### SUMMER IS ESPECIALLY CRITICAL FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE STUDENTS.

Three groups of students are particularly vulnerable to summer learning loss:

**THOSE WHO RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES, THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY, AND THOSE WHO ARE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS.**

Schools and districts typically devote extra resources to these students, but summer learning loss undercuts those efforts.



Get more great ideas for principals, teachers and parents from the new book, *Summers Matter*, written by National Summer Learning Association Board Chair, Matthew Boulay, PhD.

Visit [www.summers-matter.com](http://www.summers-matter.com) to learn more.



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national summer  
learning association

## PASS IT ALONG!

PRINCIPALS, SHARE THIS TIP SHEET WITH YOUR TEACHERS!



### JOIN THE SCHOLASTIC SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



#### **Principals, Teachers and Parents!**

Have your school take the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge, a free online reading program dedicated to encouraging kids to read every day this summer. This year's Summer Reading Challenge focuses on helping kids achieve the "Summer Leap" — the learning or reading skills gained during the summer months that help students prepare to tackle the upcoming school year.



#### **THIS YEAR'S THEME: "BE A READING SUPERHERO"**

It's all about believing in kids and encouraging them to be the best independent readers they can be. Encourage kids to read more books, log more reading minutes, earn rewards, and become a reading superhero. Visit [www.scholastic.com/summer](http://www.scholastic.com/summer) to learn more.



## SUMMER SEND-OFF TIPS FOR TEACHERS

Teachers play a critical—yet often unrecognized—role in shaping parental expectations around summer learning. Teachers have the opportunity to be “information brokers” by helping parents shape their goals for summer learning and identify resources in their community that can facilitate summer learning. Here are some tips for teachers:

**HELP YOUR STUDENTS' PARENTS THINK ABOUT THE RESOURCES IN THEIR HOMES AND COMMUNITY** that might be available during the summer. Some schools schedule parent-teacher conversations in May as a way to set goals for summer reading and learning activities.

**MAKE SURE THAT EVERY CHILD HAS A LIBRARY CARD** and help parents think about transportation options to and from the local public library.

Many schools **SUBSCRIBE TO ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAMS** during the school year. Programs like IXL, First in Math, Bedtime Math, RAZ Readers, and many more. These subscriptions are often 12 months long but teachers and parents are frequently unaware that they are available during the summer. Check to see if your online learning program is available during the summer and, if so make sure your parents know about it.

**GIVE READING LISTS.** Some schools have parents sign “Summer Reading Contracts” to commit to supporting summer reading.

**USE DATA TO TRACK YOUR STUDENTS' SUMMER LEARNING.** Talk with your principal to see what data can be easily collected. And help parents track their own children's activities: if they are not enrolled in an organized summer learning program, students or parents may be able to get a summer reading log from their public library to keep track of the time they spend reading during the summer.

**STAY IN TOUCH WITH STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER.** Some teachers email their students, some use interactive programs like Google Docs to share stories or poems, some send their students a postcard or two to check in throughout the summer. Just a simple reminder that says, “Hi there, thinking of you. Hope you're reading.”



#### SUMMERS MATTER

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